

The Daily Gazetteer.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23. 1738.

Nº 856.



Letter of the 4th Instant O. S. from Vienna says, that a Great Prince of the Empire has writ to his Imperial Majesty to desire him not to proceed against the Count de Seckendorff with all the Severity of the Law. General Doxat has desired that he may be brought to Vienna, in order to make a Discovery of the last Importance to his Imperial Majesty, before he undergoes the Sentence inflicted on him; but General Succow is ordered to demand this pretended Secret of him in the Emperor's Name, and to suspend the Execution of the Sentence, if he really finds it to be of such Importance as the General would have it believed.

The Chevalier Durand, who was killed in a Duel, as we mentioned in one of our last, had the remarkable Precaution before he went to be knock'd on the Head, to make his last Will and Testament, in which in case of Death, he made a Settlement of his Estate in France, and left a Legacy of a Hundred Ducats to his Captain Crimeri, if the latter had the good Luck to kill him on the Spot. His Corpse was interred in the Church-yard set apart for those who die by the Hands of the Hangman. His Valet de Chambre had indeed made Provision for his being bury'd in the Metropolitan Church of St. Stephen; but the Emperor being inform'd of it, forbade it, and 'twas merely a special Act of Favour, that his Majesty permitted him to be interred in the Church-yard just now mentioned. Captain Crimeri is still living, and is like to recover. 'Tis said the Emperor has published as follows an Edict against Duels, as those that are publish'd in France and Denmark.

Sum Account of the Trial of John Wingfield, for sending a threatening Letter to Mr. Berrington, &c.

JOHN WINGFIELD was a second Time indicted, for that he being an Evil disposed Person, and the Laws and Statutes of this Kingdom not regarding, nor the Penalties in the same contained, after the first Day of June, in the Year of our Lord 1735, to wit, on the 21st of March, in the 11th Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Second, now King of Great Britain, &c. with Force and Arms at the Parish of Bradfield in the County of Berks, wilfully, maliciously, knowingly, and feloniously did send a certain Letter in writing without any Date, and without any Name subscribed thereto, to one John Berrington, Esq; directed by the Name of, and to Mr. Berrington of Beenhaw with Speed, demanding Money, to wit, Ten Pounds, and containing a Threatning to fire the House or Barn of the said John Berrington, if the said Money was not sent according to the Demand of the said Letter, against the Form of the Statute in such Case lately made; to the evil Example of all others in the like Case offending, &c. To this Indictment the Prisoner pleaded not guilty, and then Counsellor Hamet stood up and opened the Charge against him, as follows.

Gentlemen of the Jury,

AS I am Counsel for the Prosecutor, I shall beg Leave to lay before ye a few Particulars relating to the Offence for which the Prisoner is now upon his Trial; in doing which, I shall be so far from endeavouring to aggravate his Guilt, that I shall only relate Matters of Fact as they happened, without any other Regard than that of doing Justice as well to the Prisoner at the Bar, as the Prosecutor.

Gentlemen, the Prisoner, about the Month of March last, being at an Ale-house, at Bradfield, I think it was the Cock Ale-house, and seeing one William Barnet, an old Acquaintance of his passing by, called to him to come in to drink with him; Barnet readily comply'd, and they both sat down together, and fell into Discourse; but the Prisoner not thinking that a proper Place to open his Mind, soon went away and took Barnet with him; and as they went along, says Wingfield to Barnet, I want Money, and Money I must have, and will have. If I could write, I could have some immediately. Barnet ask'd him how he could have it; and he answered, he knew how; for,

said he, I would write a threatening Letter to Mr. Berrington and Mr. Doughty, that should frighten them out of the Sum I want; if you'll write a Letter for me, you shall have Part of the Money. But Barnet refused to write such a Letter, telling him it was a hanging Matter; and, besides, he did not Care to do such a thing against Mr. Berrington, because he was his particular Friend.

But the Prisoner, Gentlemen, was not satisfy'd with one Denial, he took frequent Opportunities to press Barnet to write such a Letter, told him what he should write, That Mr. Berrington should pay Ten Pounds to Wingfield at the Phoenix at Hartley Row; and that if he did not comply with that Demand, and the Money was not paid according to Direction, that Mr. Berrington's Barn should be set on Fire, himself murder'd, and his Family destroyed; and withal cautioned him, to write as severe against himself [Wingfield] as he did against Mr. Berrington, that he [Wingfield] might not be suspected to have a Hand in writing the Letter. These were the Instructions the Prisoner gave Barnet, when he importuned him to write; which he did at six or seven different Times, and Barnet as often refused to do it, pretending at one time, that he had neither Pen nor Ink, so could not write; at another time, that he had no Paper, and so on; but neither of these Excuses would serve; for the Prisoner, that nothing might be wanting that he could do, fetched him Pens, Ink and Paper, and even the very Wafer that sealed the Letter that Barnet did at Wingfield's earnest Request at last consent to write, and which Wingfield afterwards dropt in a Ground called Haycroft, in the Parish of Beenhaw, where Mr. Berrington lives.

This, Gentlemen, was about the latter End of March last, and soon after the said Letter was taken up by one John Hoare, and delivered to Mr. Berrington, to whom it was directed, and when opened and read, it contained in Substance what I have already mentioned, with the Addition of the Day of the Month when the Money was to be paid, which was to be on the third Day of April next after.

This Letter, Gentlemen, Barnet indeed wrote, but it was by the Direction, and at the pressing Instance of the Prisoner at the Bar; nay, the Prisoner took the Letter from Barnet, and dropt the Letter, as he afterwards declared, in the very Ground where it was found. And finding no Money come by Force of the said Letter, he proposed some time after to set on Fire a Barn on the Copyhold at Bradfield, (belonging either to Mr. Berrington, or to Mr. Berrington's Daughter) which Barnet absolutely refused to be concerned in; so this wicked Scheme was happily frustrated.

But, Gentlemen, so much was the Prisoner bent upon Mischief, that a short time after this, being provoked that this vile Enterprize did not meet with the desired Success, he proposed setting Fire to another Barn belonging to Mr. Berrington; which Barnet likewise very luckily prevented. This is a plain Instance, that when a Man is once engaged in a Scene of Villainy, he does not know when or where to leave off; and was it not for the Justice and Severity of the Laws, such Men would at least increase to such a Height of Wickedness, that the honest and upright Part of Mankind would be no longer safe either in their Persons or Possessions. He that would set Fire to a Barn, would, without Doubt, set Fire to a Dwelling-house, if he could find an Opportunity to do it with the same Secrecy; and he that would set Fire to a House, would not regard how many innocent Lives might perish in the Flames, and fall a Sacrifice to his Inhumanity.

One Circumstance, Gentlemen, I must not forget to acquaint you with, which is to me a convincing Proof, were there none stronger, that the Prisoner was principally concerned in writing the said Letter; and that is, that the very Paper on which it was wrote, was cut or tore out of an old Book belonging to the Prisoner, and which was afterwards found in his Possession: And this, Gentlemen, when it came to be examined and compared, appeared both by the Mark and make of it, to have been made above thirty Years ago,

that no such Paper is now made, and that it tallied so exactly with that of the Book, that there was no room to doubt, but that it had been a Part of it.

There cannot, Gentlemen, be a stronger Circumstantial Proof of the Prisoner's Guilt, than what I have just laid before you; especially when we are assured by the Witness, that Wingfield told him that he tore the Paper out of a Book. And indeed, we cannot but look upon this Discovery as a Work of Providence, to prevent the horrid Schemes of Ruin and Devastation the Prisoner had contrived, for raking Effect; for if I am rightly informed, the Prisoner had actually provided Brimstone to make Matches to set fire to a Barn in the Occupation of Mr. Berrington, call'd Turner's Barn; and in order to avoid a Discovery, he had laid it out that Barnet should tie him Neck and Heels and burn some Straw about him, and singe his Hair, and then, he said, it would be thought some other Rogues had done the Mischief: But Barnet would by no means consent to any Villainy of this kind. However, the Prisoner swore that if he did not set that Barn on Fire, he would burn another Barn of Mr. Berrington's or his Daughter's, call'd Copyhold; for Darn Mr. Berrington, said he, I'll make him come down, after a Barn is burnt he must come then, and bring the Money, for fear of further Damage; all this passed after he had dropt the threatening Letter, he is now charged with being concerned in.

This, Gentlemen, is the plain Matter of Fact, without the least Aggravation, and I believe when you have heard the Evidence we have to produce in justification of it, and seen the Book out of which Paper was cut, and on which the Letter was wrote, you'll readily agree that the Prisoner is guilty of the Crime for which he is indicted, and if he is, that he ought to suffer the most rigorous Punishment the Laws of our Land can inflict.

'Tis, Gentlemen, a woeful Misfortune upon our Neighbours, and which, perhaps, might soon be our own Case, if Crimes of this Nature were suffered to go unpunished, either to be forced to give away their Substance to Rogues and desperate Ruffians, or else to lie at the Mercy of such abandon'd Villains. To have a Man's House set on fire, all his Effects consum'd, his Life, and the Lives of his whole Family indanger'd; or (what is almost as bad to Persons of mild Tempers) to be put in continual Fear of those dreadful Calamities, are such terrible Evils, that we cannot reflect upon them without Horror; and therefore we should be very careful to detect, and vigorous to punish Persons that are guilty of Crimes, so detrimental to the Peace and Happiness of Society.

We are credibly informed, that on Monday Night last Samuel Thompson, Esq; received a Letter from Wingfield, now at London, Brother to the late infamous John Wingfield, convicted at the last Assizes for Reading; promising, that if he would forthwith come to him in London to a certain Place there mentioned, and procure his Majesty's most gracious Pardon, he would make a full Discovery of all the Persons concerned in setting Fire to his Barn, of committing the horrid Murder of the Man found at Bradfield, and of all those other wicked Practices that have been for sometime transacted in those Parts.

HOME PORTS.

Deal, March 21. Wind S. W. blows hard. Remain the William and Ann, Main, for St. Christopher's; the St. George, Jolly, for Leghorn; the Aylesbury, Bray, for Venice; the Dolphin, Masters, for Bristol; the Speedwell, Rogers, for Barcelona; the Don Francisco, Salter; the Jenkin, Cook; the Neptune, Coverdale; the Ann, Steel, for Lisbon; and the Santa Theresa, Blewit, for Topsham. Arrived the Ulysses, Cavalier, from Jamaica; and the Endeavour, Hartley, from Seville.

Graveland, March 20. Passed by the Providence, Stewart, from Dublin; the Poppet, Wall, from Barbary.

LONDON.



L O N D O N

On the 9th Instant a Gentleman of Bridgenorth, about 21 Years of Age, was married to a Widow Gentlewoman of Wallall in Staffordshire near 100 Years, but reckoned to be worth about 200 l. a Year.

We are told from Hertford, that on Wednesday last were executed there two hardened Wretches, viz. Rimson and Lovell (who about two Years since broke out of Northampton Gaol, and then went by the Names of Slater and Collins.) The Account given of 'em by the Rev. Mr. Hallows, who attended them, is, That they had made a wretched End, agreeable to their wretched Lives, and particularly Rimson, who to the very last declared that he would not forgive the Gaper of St. Albans, and threaten'd to appear to him after Death, and that should he (Rimson) go to Heaven, he would never suffer Gilbert to come there, but would shut the Gate upon him; nor could all that the above Reverend Divine say, convince him of the Heinousness and Danger of dying in such an uncharitable and malicious Temper of Mind.

The Providence, Capt. Haynes, bound from London with a valuable Cargo for Figueira, was lately lost on the Coast of Portugal.

On Tuesday Morning arrived at Portsmouth the Prince Frederick, Capt. Whitwood, from Barbados, laden with Cocoa for Account of the South Sea Company.

By Advices from the Northward, we hear of the Loss of a great many Ships.

Yesterday the Honourable House of Commons went through the several Evidences of the Merchants relating to the Depredations of the Spaniards, lately complained off in their several Petitions.

And we hear that the same will be taken into Consideration on Tuesday next.

To-morrow the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty will, according to Custom, view all the superannuated Seamen worn out in the Service of the Crown, in order to admit them into the Pension of Greenwich Hospital.

Yesterday divers Witnesses came to Town from Windsor, in order to be examined this Day, concerning the contested Election between the Lord Vere Beauclerc and Mr. Oldfield, for the said Borough.

On Tuesday last the Assizes ended at Guildford, when 15 Prisoners were capitally convicted and received Sentence of Death, amongst whom was Smith, the Apothecary at Dartford, for the Murder of his Wife in St. George's Fields; and 5 Irishmen for robbing an old Woman on the Highway; and the rest for divers Felonies and Burglaries.

Last Tuesday Night the Women on the common Side in Newgate attempted to break out of their Apartment, by cutting the Iron Bars of the Window with a Saw, hoping from thence to make their Escape by the Assistance of a Leaden Pipe which supplies the Gaol with Water; but were overheard by one of the Turnkeys, who prevented their Design (tho' they had cut one of the Main Bars in two) and upon examining the Prisoners, it appeared that one of the Persons lately committed for Coining, and two others, were the Ring-leaders, they were removed to the Condemn'd Hold.

Last Tuesday Mr. Joseph Johnson of Chelsea, was married at the College Chapel to Mrs. Mathews of that Town, on which Occasion there was a handsome Entertainment at the Valiant Trooper at Chelsea: As soon as the Dinner was over, Mr. Johnson going to salute his Wife, and the rest of the Gentlemen, on a sudden fell down on the Floor and died immediately. About six Weeks since the said Gentlewoman was married to Mr. Mathews, who died in his Bed the first Night after their Marriage.

High Water this Day	Morning	Evening
at London Bridge.	01 05	01 31

Bank Stock 141 3-4ths. India 174 3-4ths. South Sea 100 1-4th to 3-8ths. Old Annuity 111 5-8ths. New ditto 109 3-8ths. Three per Cent. 105 1-half. 7 per Cent. Loan 100. 5 per Cent. ditto 100. Royal Assurance 109 5-8ths. London Assurance 14 7-8ths to 15. African 14. India Bonds 61. 16 s. Premium. South Sea ditto 21. 16 s. Premium. Bank Circulation 21. 2 s. 6 d. Prem. Salt Tallow 1 to 3 Prem. English Copper 31. Welsh ditto 35 s. Three 1-half per Cent. Exchequer Orders 6 per Cent. Premium. Three per Cent. ditto 3 per Cent. Premium. Million Bank 125.

THE Commission of Bankrupt awarded against Mr. John Ward, late of London, Merchant, being now absolutely confirm'd, these are to give Notice to all Persons that are indebted to the said Bankrupt's Estate, That if they do not immediately pay the same to Mr. Conrad de Gols and John Read, at the South Sea House, London, Assignees under the said Commission, they will be sued forth with; and if the Tenants in Possession of the said Bankrupt's Estate, refuse to attorn to the said Assignees, they will be ejected out of Possession, and prosecuted for all Arrears accrued due since the 30th of November, 1736, being the Time the said Commission bears Date, by Mr. William Gooftrey, Solicitor for the Assignees.

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